**ENBFM 2017 Director’s Report**

The vision of *El Nido* is to provide education and emotional, physical, social and spiritual support in order to meet the well-being needs of expectant mothers, new mothers, mothers and other family members so that they would experience hope and growth in Christ through a new birth, bringing glory to God. Toward that end:

We supported 18 local women (137 hours) as they prepared for the birth of their baby, by providing childbirth education, labor and postpartum doula support, breastfeeding support and by allowing Debbie to serve through midwifery. We sent to training one **doula** and one **Certified Lactation Counselor**.

We worked on establishing **breastfeeding** with 13 mother/baby dyads (33 hours) and helped provide donor milk for 3 families.

We are working with the **Southwest Breastfeeding** **Coalition** (6 hours)- working on normalizing breastfeeding with SHIP and other providers in a 5 county area. Hoping to co-sponsor a training in 2018 with GFMH to train nurses and other health care providers in the area regarding breastfeeding. Working with local employers to create Breastfeeding/pumping rooms and earn the Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite award.

Through our **Mom 2 Mom** program we held 14 mothering support group meetings, provided parenting training for one mother and provided supervised visits to allow her to regain visitation with her children. Provided beds/cribs to 2 families

**Parenting** **training**- worked with a mother one on one in reuniting her with her children. Approached by Restorative Justice and Jailer at YMC to begin parenting classes. Will begin working on a contract between YMC and MNPDP.

We have continued to partner with **Minnesota Prison Doula Project** and

are hoping to bring their services to Yellow Medicine County in 2018.

We have been involved with a local group hoping to open a **birth center** in order to provide women more birthing resources. working with a group of 6 women, led by Jane Wrede, CNM to explore the possibility of opening one in the region

We supported the **Chemical Health Coalition** (7 hours) attending meetings. Unfortunately, CHC was not able to get an additional grant to take it through the next year. Had 2 events at YME and 1 at the Kilowatt.

* **PLANT** (6 students) 3 meetings- working with high schoolers at YME. Was not able to get enough momentum to keep it going so CHC decided to change tactics and drop it to the 8th grade students. With the dissolution of Conrad’s position, I was unsuccessful at getting this started this fall.
* **ROOTS** (24 kids) 9- meetings with 8th graders at YME, they started a Facebook page and had a scavenger hunt in Granite Falls. Without support from a CHC director, I was unsuccessful at sustaining it in 2017/2018.
* **LEADERS** (10 kids) 33 meetings with 5th-8th grades, they have continued visiting the residents at the Bellview nursing home, worked through several “incidents” with kids involving drugs, smoking and bullying. Currently on basketball break and will start again after the season.

We attended **Daycare meetings** with YMC and ECHO Charter- 10 hours of meetings to bring attention to the lack of daycare before the county. Cathy Anderson took over for the city of GF and a new center, Puddle jumpers, will open summer of 2018 in the Mn West campus. ECHO Charter is in the last phase of the state approval process and will open its daycare/preschool, Bottle Rockets Childcare Center in early 2018.

At the holiday season the second annual **Christmas Shoppe** was led by Cathy Michaelson and a group of women and girls from YME help with shoppers and wrapping. Served over 95 children and wrapped over 300 gifts. We were able to use the proceeds toward sponsoring a family of 4 boys in need that were new to the Granite area. We look forward to this being an annual event.

Attended **Community Leadership Team** (2 hours) meetings conducted by SHIP with different organizations meeting together to bring better health to the different cities represented. Working on a grant with Echo Charter, LEADERS and SHIP to begin a community garden. Wewalked in the GF and Echo parades under the Echo Charter name

**Women’s Bible Study**- finished the Beth Moore series started in the fall of 2017.

We are excited to see what 2018 holds as we continue to

* *Build Relationships* while getting to know women and their needs in order to understand how to meet them
* *Deliver Lives* physically, emotionally and spiritually
* *Educate for the Future* enabling women and other family members to support themselves in the future

In Him,

*Debbie Eakes*